

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented). A method for removing pigments from a pigmented section of skin, comprising:

- a) puncturing the skin at said pigmented section with a skin-puncturing device provided with at least one needle, thereby liberating the pigments and cellular fluids from cells containing said pigments; and
- b) bandaging said punctured skin with a pad adapted to absorb said pigments and said cellular fluids, said pad containing one or more materials capable of accelerating a process of migration of said pigments toward an outer layer of the skin, wherein said one or more materials is a salt-based granular paste.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 1, further comprising applying one or more antiseptic materials to the punctured skin.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 1, wherein the punctured skin is bandaged with a pad containing one or more antiseptic materials.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 1, wherein the skin-puncturing device is a tattooing device.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one needle attached to the skin-puncturing device is solid.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 5, wherein the skin-puncturing device is further provided with suction means.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 6, further comprising, prior to the bandaging of the punctured skin and during the puncturing of said skin, performing suction of the pigments from said punctured skin with the suction means.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 1, wherein the salt-based granular paste contains saline.

Claims 10-13 (Cancelled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein an aqueous solution is injected into the pigmented section during the puncturing of the skin.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1, further comprising applying at least one antibiotic material to the punctured skin.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1, which further comprises including at least one antibiotic material for treating the skin in said pad.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more materials in said pad are capable of absorbing at least five grams of an aqueous mixture containing tattoo ink and cellular debris per ten square centimeters of area of said pad in a period of no more than twenty minutes.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one needle attached to said skin-puncturing device is hollow.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 18, which further comprises coupling a means for providing suction to said hollow needle.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 19, further comprising, prior to the bandaging of the punctured skin and during the puncturing of said skin, sucking the pigments from said punctured skin with said means for providing suction.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein said skin-puncturing device includes no ink to be injected.

Appl. No. 10/560,063

Amendment Dated May 18, 2009

Reply to Office Action of March 16, 2009

Claim 22 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of removing the pad prior to damaging the skin.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of removing the pad prior to complete saturation.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented). The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of covering the pad with a dressing.